

VANCOUVER COMMUNITIES IN SOLIDARITY WITH CUBA
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LIFT THE BLOCKADE ON CUBA

US President George W. Bush, US Attorney General Alberto Gonzales and Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice:

We call on you to cease the unacceptable blockade of Cuba immediately. Imposed since 1962, the US blockade has been reinforced in October 1992 by the Cuban Democracy Act (or “Torricelli Law”), which aimed to restrain the development of the Cuban economy’s by: i) the strict limitations of the transfers of foreign currencies by the families in exile, ii) the six-months ban to enter U.S. harbours of all ships that had anchored in a Cuban port or carrying Cuban made products, iii) sanctions against firms doing commerce with the island even though under the jurisdiction of a third state. The blockade was systematized by the Cuban Liberty and Democracy Solidarity Act (“Helms Burton Law”) of March 1996, aimed to harden the “international” sanctions against Cuba.

The U.S. blockade against Cuba has been officially condemned for 12 years by an overwhelming majority of nation-states members of the United Nations General Assembly. The blockade directly subjects the people to the maximum of suffering and infringes upon the physical and moral integrity of the whole population. In this respect, they can be seen as a crime against humanity.

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